NEW BOOKS. The First D'Artagnan

The interest shown of late years in Alexander Dumas's romances in this country and England, which has manifested itself in many translations and "complete" editions, accounts probably for the appearance of the "Memoirs of Monsieur d'Artagnan" by Courtilz de Sandras, translated in three volumes by Ralph Nevill (Little, Brown & Company). The great French romancer was as free in making use of earlier materials as the Elizabethan dramatists were in borrowing from the Italian story tellers. He lifted the earlier romancer's story whole, and those who regard this as plagiarism will think the case against him stronger than it is by a comparison of the translations. In this process so much is lost that the peculiar charm and distinction of Dumas's French, which makes the story his own, is

The "Memoirs" are as much of a romance en the "Trois Mousquetaires" with its sequels. We all know that there was a real d'Artagnan and that he was Louis XIV.'s Captain-Lieutenant of Musketeers. He had nothing to do with the memoirs, which were made up by Courtilz de Sandras, an adventurer and pamphleteer and prolific writer of romances of the end of Louis's reign. There is enough historical fact mixed with fiction to give both an air of verisimilitude. The incidents are often broad and coarse, which was possible in a book printed surreptitiously outside of France, but Dumas's medifications were due more to the change in social manners that two centuries had made than to any fear of censorship.

As a romance the "Memoirs" are very entertaining. It is surprising that they have never been translated into English before, for this, we are told, is the first English translation. Still, the French original is not particularly easy to get, and respectable translations of Dumas do not date many years back. There was plenty of gossip for the author to weave into his narrative; he lived at the time, he saw a good deal of court people and heard more, and his story, perhaps, presents a more vivid view of Louis XIV.'s time than more accurate and trustworthy narratives do.

The three volumes are very handsomely printed at the University Press, Cambridge; the illustrations are all historical portraits selected with taste. The book will welcome to Dumas enthusiasts and may be read with pleasure by all.

John Phornix Here Again.

There were American humorists in the days before Artemus Ward and the Civil War whom elderly people remember with enjoyment, though to this generation they are perhaps mere half-forgotten names. What has become of Sam Slick, and who remembers John Phonix? Dialect was not so complicated in those days and not so copious, and funniness did not turn entirely on bad spelling. The opportunity to compare ante-bellum wit with that of the modern decadents, without hunting through dusty shelves in old libraries, is afforded by the republication of some of John Phœnix's pieces in "Phœnixiana" (Appletons).

The old stories read well. After half a century they are just as funny as they were when Franklin Pierce was President, though it may startle those addicted to jocose literature to find Lieut. Derby using good English. Perhaps it is that which makes them old-fashioned, and yet had Lieut. Derby lived he would be only 80 years old now, for he was but 38 when he died in the first year of the war. How far back it

Mr. John Kendrick Bangs supplies an introduction with a sketch of the author, Derby been a professional fun-maker, the production of such a work as 'Phœnixiana' might possibly have proved a solemn task and a wearisome effort." Mr. Bangs's things. Mr. E. W. Kemble has made some arranged according to geography illustrations which are often funny, but are always out of place. How discordant they are can be seen in comparing them with the original pictures of "Phœnix's Pictorial," which could not be left out, the meeting of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe with the Duchess of Sutherland, and George Washington's oysters. The few old woodcuts are a part of the book, and modern drawings and methods of reproduction are out of place.

It is good to have an American classic brought into the reach of all. The grandchildren can now laugh at the stories their grandfathers laughed at, and may be surprised to meet some old acquaintances among them.

Travel by Magte Lantern.

The spread of magic lantern lectures in this country in the last twenty years is an interesting phase of social change. The intrusion of pictures was viewed askance by the old lyceum audiences trained to mental concentration by Mr. Emerson and John B. Gough and Dr. John Lord, and to be tolerated only with scientific subjects, such as the wonders of the microscope. Views of foreign lands cast upon the screen were seen with pleasure, and therefore could not be quite right. Still, the stereopticon lectures worked their way into the lyceum programmes with the bellringers and other musical entertainments and pushed pure intellectuality into the background. In time bold innovators instituted courses made up entirely of picture lectures, and made them pay. Now the magic lantern has invaded the colleges, so that at Harvard the number of students of Greek and Latin is kept up in large part by stereopticon lectures.

The lectures have grown into a prosperous industry and recognized form of amusement. In the projection of the pictures on the screen every resource of science and art has been employed, and the lecturers in their hunt for novelty have developed taste in the selection of views and great skill in the use of the camera. The pictures are the entertainment, and in his mellifluous explanatory accompaniment the soft-voiced lecturer takes care never to rise above the level of his audience. There are doubtless Ligher forms of intellectual enjoyment than listening to such lectures, but they certainly provide innocent amusement to many people who want to be entertained without too much exertion on their part; they give to many, perhaps, as much knowledge of foreign parts as they could acquire by visiting the spot; they recall to those who have travelled pleasant memories of the things they have seen, and often the pictures in themselves are an

Of late years some well known lecturers have taken to publishing their lectures with illustrations from their photographs. Such is the series of books before us, "The Burton Holmes Lectures" (The Little, Preston Company, Battle (reek, Mich.). ten volumes, containing thirty lectures, profusely illustrated from excellent photographs, many of which are of uncommon places. There are colored pictures besides. While the text is not particularly instructive, it reads smoothly and pleasantly, and will enable people to recall in their

homes the lectures they have attended. Mr. Elias Burton Holmes, who has stepped into the shoes of Mr. John L. Stoddard, in

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these ten volumes covers Morocco, Algiers and southern Spain, Russia, Greece and the Olympian Games, Paris and the Exposition, Oberammergau, and other parts of Europe; the Siberian railroad, China, Corea, Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii, and the Yellowstone and other Pacific Coast sights.

No More Light on South America.

No book could be more welcome than an adequate history in reasonable compass of the South American republics. We ought to know so much about them and know so little, and can find small help in anything written in English and not much more in foreign tongues. We opened Mr. Thomas C. Dawson's "The South American Republics" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), the first part of which deals with Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil, with much hope, the more so because Mr. Dawson had unusual opportunities to write the book we need, from having been secretary of the United States Legation to Brazil.

We are disappointed, however. Mr. Dawson prefers to deal with generalities and seems incapable of sticking to definite facts. Any history of South America which does not begin with the revolutionary movement in the north that freed the coloonies from Spain labors under a. disadvantage. The discoveries and colonizations, too, are dealt with more easily by beginning at the beginning. That might have been overlooked, however, had the author really written complete monographs on each modern republic. He has not done that, and the result is confusion, which is not improved by the use of English that lacks distinction and, sometimes, grammatical accuracy. We must still turn to cyclopædias for South American scraps.

The Seleucus and Antiochus Family.

"There is much to discourage an attempt by write a history of the Seleucid dynasty," Mr. Edwyn Robert Bevan, M. A., informs us in the preface to his two volumes of "The House of Seleucus" (Edward Arnold), and there is still more to discourage the reviewer. It is a conscientious effort, in the style of doctor dissertations, with much study of the sources, no imagination and no particular style.

Painful as it is to reconstruct history from coins, from inscriptions and from the accounts of hostile writers, it should be presented in a form that may interest curious admission: "Had Lieut. George H. | the reader, or, we will not say not at all, but, at any rate, in a condensed form, embodying the author's own discoveries and omitting the padding from other works. As it is, the two volumes may fill up a gap readers may think that this explains many in the shelves of any historical library

A HONEYMOON DOWN THE BAY. It Only Lasted an Afternoon, but It Was a

Merry Cruise Till the Waves Arose.

A most remarkable honeymoon followed the equally remarkable wedding last week of Toby Bon Peterson, reputed descendant of a Polish king who lived three hundred years ago, to Miss Sophie Fischer, daughter of the Governor of Iceland, who arrived in Brooklyn three weeks ago from the icy north after a separation of fifteen years from her lover. The honeymoon consisted of a trip down the bay and back on

the Protestant Episcopal missionary yacht

Sentinel, lasting one afternoon. It was important to forego the custom of having a minister tie the knot, for the bridal party intended having a rousing time on the yacht, such as a minister might not care to participate in. So the Rev. A. R. Mansfield, chaplain of the yacht, who should have married the young couple. was not informed of the important event. Counsel Franklin Grier of the Seamen's branch of the Legal Ad Society, who employs Mr. Peterson as a private detective fulfilled the functions of the minister at the

fuifilled the functions of the minister at the last moment at his office, I State street, by certifying to the marriage.

The party was told that the Sentinel was moored at Pier I, East River, and the suggestion was made that the wedding guests seize the craft and make for the open sea on her. Herr von Fithian, a representative of the Danish Embassy—for Peterson's father was once Consul at Savannah—ran off to purchase champagne and other good things, and it was done.

Such sights as along the bay the Icelandic spouse never saw. The Statue of Liberty seemed to cry out to the wedding party to have a good time. They tooted every vessel they passed and held aloft the flowing cup to every sailor who shouted his "Good luck to ye." The very guns of the forts looked ready to belch forth congratulations.

Between the champagne and the rocking

gratulations.

Between the champagne and the rocking of the yacht—for the day was rough—as soon as the blue of the ocean was reached Mr. Peterson, who was looking rather longing y to shore, suggested that the boat turn back.

As Mr. Peterson explained two days after,
on returning to the office, the sait air had a on returning to the onics, the said air had a remarkably sleepy effect.

The party ended the wedding trip just as the minister arrived at the pier to take the yacht on his daily visitation cruise.

COST OF SPECS GOING UP.

Materials Cost More and Now the Lens Grinders Are Striking for More Pay. The lens grinders employed by the opticians in this city have demanded an increase of pay and are organizing a new labor union to get it. The grinders now get \$18 a week. They ask for \$21. Scores of them in Brooklyn and Manhattan shops have already gone on strike on their own hook without waiting for their union to complete its organization. That's only part of the trouble of the opticians. They have received notice that

opticians. They have received notice that on Nov. 1 the wholesale price of materials will be advanced.

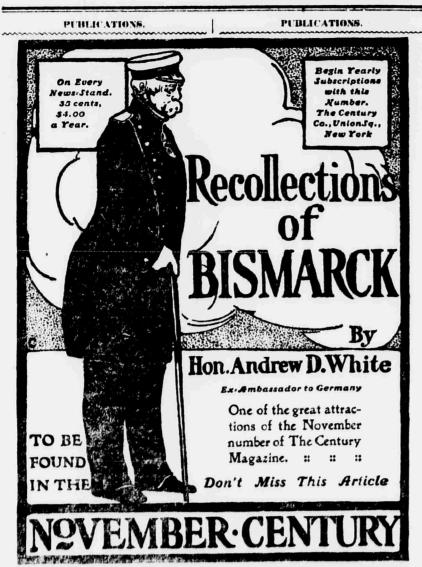
will be advanced.
"So it is very likely," said an optician vesterday, "that the man who breaks or loses his specs will have to pay 75 cents for a lens that now costs him half a dollar."

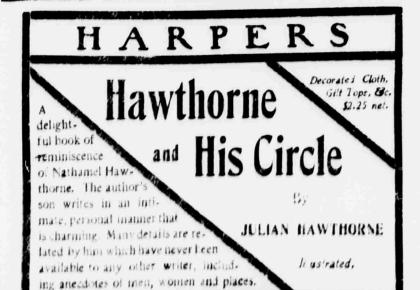
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